



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of the Honorable Barbara M. Quinn  
Chief Court Administrator  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 30, 2011

House Bill 6625, An Act Concerning the Validity of an Annulment  
or Dissolution of Marriage

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 6625, *An Act Concerning the Validity of an Annulment or Dissolution of Marriage*. The Judicial Branch does not support this bill because it establishes a mechanism to provide for the validation of an annulment or dissolution of marriage outside of the existing civil process used by the court to determine the validity of a court judgment.

Essentially the bill states that no judgment of divorce, or annulment, shall be void for lack of personal or subject matter jurisdiction, or procedural defect, and shall be recognized as valid, if:

- The defendant relied in good faith on it being valid, or
- The plaintiff relied in good faith on such belief and provided notice of such belief to the defendant by registered or certified mail, or in any manner in which civil process may be served, and
- The defendant failed to bring an action in Connecticut to contest the validity of the judgment within 90 days of receipt of such notice.

Lastly, it states that reliance may be established by a sworn declaration.

The bill changes the standard for attacking a court judgment. Our civil process already allows a court to determine whether or not a judgment is void or voidable, and "good faith reliance" is not one of the standards, mainly because it can be established by a simple hearsay affidavit. Furthermore, the bill does not provide any means of proving that the defendant actually received notice of the plaintiff's belief.

We would respectfully request that the Committee not approve this bill as it is currently drafted. Thank you for your consideration.